

I would like to read parts of the letter sent by the Alamo's commander pleading for help:

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, I am besieged by 1,000 or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise the garrison are to be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot.

I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country: victory or death.

William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

Remember the Alamo, and God bless the republic of Texas.

DUMB AND CRUEL CUTS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, snow is keeping Federal workers at home today, and Congress will keep up to a million at home with the sequester cuts in today's CR.

No emergency like snow or even the deficit will be responsible. The responsibility lies with the House majority, which has abdicated its responsibility to govern. The CR on the floor today embeds cuts that might be tolerated if spread intelligently and selectively over time.

But even if the deficit demanded cutting, for example, the Women, Infants, and Children program, there could be no justification for doing it in only 6 months, guaranteeing that over 600,000 low-income women and our most vulnerable children will lose basic nutrition assistance.

Dumb cuts are bad; cruel cuts are much worse.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON MEK MEMBERS AT CAMP LIBERTY

(Mr. COTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Chairman POE's resolution condemning the February 9 rocket and mortar attacks at Camp Liberty in Iraq and urging the President to work with the Iraqi Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to relocate the members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq back to Camp Ashraf.

These MEK refugees can only be safe and secure at Ashraf where they have lived for over 25 years. The Iraqi Government and the High Commissioner placed these MEK members at Camp Liberty despite the great danger to them there. Now the United Nations should take the necessary steps to return them to Ashraf or settle them abroad.

I look forward to the day when these refugees can return home to Iran once

the tyrannical regime there has fallen, a day that might have been hastened if President Obama had stood with brave Iranian protesters in 2009 instead of coddling the theocratic mullahs there. Let us not make that mistake again.

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AUTISM AND SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. On Sunday, March 3, 2 days after the failure of this body to stop the mindless budget cuts of the sequester that will slash millions of dollars for medical research, I was honored to join Bob and Suzanne Wright and thousands of others as we walked in downtown West Palm Beach to promote autism awareness, advocacy, and research.

One in 88 American children is affected by autism, which is America's fastest growing, serious developmental disability, and the Wrights will be the first to tell you that, even with the progress of their organization Autism Speaks and other fine organizations, it will take the investment of the United States of America in science to unlock the mystery of a disorder that cheats our children and stresses their families financially and emotionally.

Mr. Speaker, the sequester will hurt our most vulnerable loved ones and will risk slowing down our economy right when it is recovering. Let's come together now and stop the sequester and reduce our deficit in a balanced way. Instead of tax breaks for oil companies, let's give an autistic child a chance to be the best that he or she can be.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, the record is clear: the House of Representatives has acted responsibly. We've passed two pieces of legislation to be able to deal with sequestration and to be able to deal with it in a responsible way. The question yet to be answered is: Will the Senate, will the administration rise with us to be able to meet that challenge?

Right now, an American family making \$50,000 a year is taking about \$1,000 less home because of the expiration of the payroll tax deduction. That's a mortgage payment, books for school, a couple of months' worth of groceries. In fact, they're now under the highest tax burden since the year 2008. Families are making sacrifices while government continues to increase spending. Many Federal agencies and programs will actually receive more in their budgets this year, and the government will collect more tax revenue than ever before—\$2.7 trillion.

One of the major problems with the President's sequester is not that it initiates needed reductions in Federal spending but that its unwieldy nature casts a broad shadow of uncertainty with regards to how those cuts will be implemented. We need responsibility. This House has acted. We call on the Senate and the administration to join us.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about the recent sequestration cuts to important Federal programs, cuts that are harmful to our national security, education system, transportation and infrastructure, and economy.

Congressional Democrats have worked for months in this very Chamber in order to avoid the harmful cuts, but the House majority has so politicized the budget process that it has prevented any resolution or compromise. The Republican majority has three times blocked the consideration of a Democratic bill to end sequestration, has refused to bring any bill of its own to the House floor to end the sequester and, instead, with partisan attacks, has tried to blame President Obama.

The sequester has already taken effect with an immediate \$85 billion across-the-board spending cut; and while the worst of these impacts is yet to come, Americans will see more teachers laid off, indiscriminate cuts to special education, a loss of 4 million meals for seniors, and debilitating health care cuts for our military families.

In my home State of Texas, the sequester puts close to 1,000 teaching jobs at risk. Over 80,000 workers will lose access to job training, over 50,000 civilian defense employees will be furloughed, and 9,700 fewer children will get vaccines for diseases like measles and the whooping cough.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. HANNA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, sequestration went into effect. The House has passed two plans to replace sequestration with smarter, targeted spending cuts. Unfortunately, the Senate has not approved a plan. We desperately need to cut spending, but sequestration is an extremely poor way to do it.

Where I'm from in upstate New York, it means taking an ax to cybersecurity precisely when we need it the most. It means furloughing the men and women who make sure that our Armed Forces get paid. It also means slashing education programs that make our country more competitive.